THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the temples have not been declared as protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, no funds have been allocated by the Archaeological Survey of India for their maintenance.

Maintenance of historical sites

2203. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals by the ASI for maintaining important historical sites in Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Goa where maximum foreign tourists visit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take action against such miscreants who cause damage to our heritage sites?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Besides maintenance and conservation of the Centrally Protected Monuments, the Archaeological Survey of India is formulating perspective plans for the conservation and development of the (1) Red Fort (2) Humayun's Tomb (3) Qutab Minar in Delhi (4) Taj Mahal (5) Agra Fort and (6) Fatehpur Sikri in Agra. For Churches in Old Goa and also Kumbalgarh Fort and Chittorgarh Fort in Rajashthan.

(c) The miscreants causing damage to the Centally Protected Monuments are dealt with as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act,1958.

Problems of the domestic Hoteliers

2204. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Hoteliers look for growth abroad with tourism hit" which appeared in The Business Standard, dated the 20th June, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the measures to be adopted to address the problems of the domestic hoteliers mentioned in the newsitem?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major hotel chains of India are already operating in many foreign countries. With liberalization and globalization of the Indian economy, Indian entrepreneurs are looking for investment opportunities abroad. Likewise many foreign companies are investing in the Hotel Industry in India. Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rs.48611.47 million has been approved by the Government in Hotel and Tourism Sector from April, 1991 to April, 2002.

(c) Government has provided several fiscal and tax incentives to the Hotel and Tourism sector in India.

Delegation sent to Gulf countries on tourism

†2205. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently sent a delegation to visit the Gulf countries for the purpose of promoting the Indian tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the said tour?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The delegation was led by the Minister for Civil Aviation and visited Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Muscat and Bahrain. It included Tourism Ministers from some States, Governments officials and private sector representatives. With a view to promote Tourism to India from this region, a number of seminars, workshops, interviews and India Evenings were organised. In addition, several meetings were also held with counterpart Ministries and Departments. As a result of this promotional exercise, a number of new packages have been launched to give further impetus to flow of tourists from this region.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.